

BRYAN'S AVOWED AID AND COMFORT TO AGUINALDO.

Indications that the Democratic Leader and the Filipino Insurgent Have a Very Satisfactory Mutual Understanding.

AGUINALDO WANTS US TO SUPPORT HIS "REPUBLIC."

We Are to Hold the Bag and Keep Off Other Nations, While He Is to Get All the Benefits—Aguinaldo Admitted that His People Were Divided as to Policy.

Gen. Whittier, of Gen. Merritt's staff, called on Aguinaldo by appointment at Malolos (see page 498, Senate Document 62, Treaty of Peace papers) and had a business talk with him. The substance of this conversation has become much more important since the Democratic party has committed itself to the Aguinaldo policy in the Philippines and since the Democratic candidate for the presidency has accepted that program, added to it the Monroe doctrine, and is pressing the campaign upon the theory that the "paramount" issue is a protectorate for the Philippines after we surrender them and to cover them against the intrusion of Europe with the Asiatic annex of the American doctrine of Monroe.

There occurred between Gen. Whittier and the Tagal tyrant a thorough conversation on the subject of this American protectorate of the Philippines. Gen. Whittier told Aguinaldo that in a few days he would go to Paris to appear before the peace commission sitting in that city, and the general asked (to quote his own official report of the conversation): "I started the talk by announcing to Aguinaldo that I was to leave in a few days to appear before the peace commission, and that I had a very friendly feeling for the Philippines and admiration for many of their good qualities, their quietness, temperance and great initiative power, and a possibility of learning almost any profession or business; that I would like to be able to present to the commission his and his people's views and demands and what relation they expected to hold to the United States in case we decided to keep the islands." It will be noted that Gen. Whittier expressed himself fully and clearly. He said:

"Aguinaldo replied rather naively, that his people were divided into two parties—those in favor of absolute independence and those of an American protectorate; that the parties are about equal; that he is waiting to see who will have the majority, in that case to take his position." This report of what Aguinaldo had to say about a division of opinion between independence and an American protectorate is much more interesting just now than it ever has been. This conversation was nearly two years ago. Aguinaldo had made himself troublesome at Bacoor, and his removal to Malolos, it is evident now, was a step taken to prepare for war with the Americans. He found he was not to be admitted to Manila, and made choice of a position on the railroad from which he expected to turn and capture the city. He was engaged in this work when Gen. Whittier called upon him, and eluded the penetrating question asked him by saying: "The parties among his countrymen in respect to absolute independence or an American protectorate were about equal, and he was waiting to see who would have the majority to take his position."

Aguinaldo had this habit of avoiding a straight answer to a strong question. Mr. Whittier told him, and it would be well for Mr. Bryan to make a memorandum of what Whittier said to Aguinaldo, and for the people of the United States to study it closely and seriously, for precisely the objections to Philippine independence government that existed then exist and are more obvious now. Gen. Whittier said:

"I pointed out to him that it would probably be useless to try to bring those in favor of absolute independence to any change of opinion, but they must consider that they are without a navy and without capital, which is greatly needed for the development of the country; that the Philippine government alone did not possess the element of strength to insure the retention of the islands without the assistance of other governments. They would be at the mercy of any of half a dozen powers striving to take either a part or the whole of the islands, and they must consider that their greatest prosperity would come by the gradual accession of power under American auspices."

This was to the point and Aguinaldo was disturbed. There isn't a particle of doubt that he had already fully made up his mind to make war for complete independence without any expectation or desire to please the United States, but it was too early for him to avow his purpose. He knew perfectly that his views of carrying on a personal government could not be acceptable to the people of the United States. The reply of Aguinaldo to Whittier and remarks upon a further question are of sensational pith and moment now. Gen. Whittier's report is quoted in full by the Associated Press.

"But the civilized nations of the world would see that our possessions were not taken from us." I replied: "How has it been in China, where England, Russia, France, Germany, etc., all strive to control territory?"

To this he could make no reply. I further asked what that side would expect America, acting the role of protector, to do.

He said: "To furnish the navy, while the Philippines hold the country and administered civil offices with its own people."

"And what, then, would America get from this?" said I.

"That would be a detail," he said, "which would be settled hereafter."

Gen. Whittier adds: "We pursued this

subject of a protectorate for some time without getting any satisfactory results." Mr. Higgins (a friend of Whittier who accompanied him) told that Aguinaldo had been simply repeating a lesson, but I did not feel so sure of that. Buen Camino, a close friend of Aguinaldo, was present at this conversation, but came in and gave his opinion—he was an intimate of Aguinaldo—that the President was in favor of an American protectorate.

Certainly he would be if it was the end of a series of propositions such as Bryan has presented to the American people, which proposed plainly the turning over to Aguinaldo the American army and navy whenever he has a government in his own hands stable as to his authority and independent of any other authority. Then the time comes when the protectorate will be vital.

The American duty as a protector is to stand off the powers named by Whittier—England, Russia, France, Germany, and Japan is to be included—and what are Americans to get for all this?

We have already the answer of Aguinaldo: "A detail to be considered hereafter."

It is a question whether the Americans are to pay their expenses while in the service of Aguinaldo. Aguinaldo's statement of what he meant was made more than two years ago. He said the same thing to me, with a little less detail, on the 25th of August, 1898.

The Democratic party has submissively embodied the Aguinaldo plan in its platform, and Mr. Bryan has exploited it in his speech, and as a personal contribution he has slung in the Monroe doctrine in such a way that if he were President of the United States he would have the alternative of backing squarely out of it, or warring with all the nations of Europe that are determined to pursue their colonial system.

It is well known that there has been a good deal of correspondence between the malcontents of this country and the insurgents of the Philippines, and the symptoms are that Bryan and Aguinaldo, who constitute a mutual admiration society, have been directing each other indirectly in confidential communication.

Why not directly? Each of them would feel himself honored to have so distinguished a correspondent. They have much in common. Each anticipates being the ruler of his own country and is in a state of confidence that he is going to be.

The first thing Bryan would think about would be of soothing the enemy he denounces "our ally" by entering into an alliance with him, offensive and defensive. This would require a good deal of letter writing, and they have worked their three points down fine. The Philippine revolution in the Democratic platform and the Philippine proposals of Mr. Bryan in his acceptance speech are in the nature of a protocol, and if the United States is ready to submit to serve Aguinaldo as a protector, and do it for nothing, maintaining a great fleet and army to do it with, Aguinaldo would not be foolish enough to object to objections.

Bryan offers him plainly to play his game and has put in the Monroe doctrine as a trump card to scare Europe. Bryan has invested everything he has got in the Malay business.

There is a striking resemblance in one respect between Aguinaldo and Bryan. Neither has ever been elected President, but both are assuming the duties of the office, each attitudes as the personification of the nation.

Bryan hasn't as yet appointed himself to anything. Aguinaldo can teach him the trick. It is the profound faith and each that he is by and for and in himself an E Pluribus Unum.

MURAT HALSTEAD.

Veterans Indorse McKinley.

Veterans of the G. A. R. held the opening business session of the encampment Aug. 25, at Chicago. Joel M. Longenecker, commander of the Illinois department, played the leading role at the meeting, which took place in the Studebaker Theater, and before he had finished his part President McKinley had received the indorsement of veterans, representing posts throughout the United States. The outburst came spontaneously and suddenly and the ex-judge's commendation was emphasized with a five-minute demonstration, in which aged men forgot their years and clambered upon seats and yelled frantically. All this happened while Mayor Harrison, who had just welcomed the veterans formally to the city, sat close by, grim, unmoved, silent.

The Illinois commander, in his turn, was tendering the hand of greeting in behalf of his department and was landing the heroes that Illinois had turned out and that Illinois had in-charged with the nation, now felt proud of. Lincoln had been cheered. So had Grant and Logan.

By this time the ex-judge was perspiring and his collar was gradually wilting beneath the strain of oratory.

"And we have been proud of a comrade who has occupied the presidential chair for four years," he shouted—the veterans in every corner moved closer—"and for four years more we will be proud of him."

The cheer that greeted the speaker went beyond anything given during the encampment. There is no doubt of it—the Grand Army is with Comrade McKinley heart and soul.

"DEAR BOY" LETTERS—NO. 4

My Dear Boy—As an American citizen I am happy over the vast progress made by the United States during the administration of Wm. McKinley.

It is true that the increase of our wealth, the enlargement of our possessions, and the position which we have gained among the nations of the earth, have brought to us a vast increase of responsibility. However, this responsibility came to us providentially, unexpectedly and unsought; and, if we are true to ourselves and to righteousness, the God of nations will guide us in the future as in the past.

It is also true that there are some sad things to contemplate in this connection. War is always sad, and we have had practically three wars on our hands. None of them could be foreseen four years ago. We were pushed into them and it is a good thing that we had so wise a pilot at the helm in this critical period of our nation's history. But while there are things that make one sad, there are many more to make one glad, and it is of these things that I wish to speak.

First—The better state of feeling between the North and the South. You were born since those old days and can have but little idea of the intense bitterness engendered by the Civil War. It was a common saying at the close of the war that it would take several generations for the enmity to pass away. Men thought it impossible that North and South should come together heartily during the lifetime of the men who fought the battles and the women who gave their husbands and their sons to the Northern and Southern causes. Gradually the feeling between the sections became better. We made a long stride forward during the summer that Garfield lay dying and the whole nation, North and South, watched by his bedside in anxiety, hope and fear. But the Spanish-American war finished the trouble.

Do not make the same mistake this year.—Marion, Ark., Herald.

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